AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph on page 5, line 24, beginning with "However, as there is no," with the following:

--However, as there is no consideration of contents of data to be transmitted for "protection of information" in the above standard, the same error-correction information is uniformly added to all data without consideration of the importance of each data. Then, data with greater importance, and those with less importance have the same error rate. But, as the real-time transmission is [[a]] an important factor, and objects have their own importance, in the MPEG-4, it is useless to perform the error-correction coding with the same level of error-correction for every object, and there may be a case to lose the real-time transmission. Therefore, the resources are not effectively used.--

Please replace the paragraph on page 12, line 10, beginning with "However, in an actual transmitting" with the following:

--However, in an actual transmitting and receiving system to transmit data of MPEG-4, the data multiplexing section, and the data transmission section in the transmitting system (in many cases, the two sections are realized as one operational block. They are called as "data multiplexing/transmission section (Trans Mux)") [[is]] are assumed to basically use standard methods (MPEG-2 TS, H.223, RTP, and the like.). Transmission control considering the priority of objects like the present invention is actually beyond the limits of the standard.--

Please replace the paragraph on page 13, line 26, beginning with "The error-correction coding" with the following:

--The error-correction coding section 31 receives the coded scene description reflecting the intention of an author who produces contents and makes a relationship table between each of the elementary streams and its priority as shown in Table 1. The error-correction coding section 31, based on the priority information of the stream[[;]] , selects an error-correction method[[;]] , and performs error-correction coding of each stream with the selected error-correction method. The error-correction coding section 31 also has a function to perform error-correction coding of the scene description, similarly to each stream. The scene description is regarded as the most important data.--

Please replace the paragraph on page 17, line 1, beginning with "In the MPEG-4" with the following:

--In the MPEG-4, the priority information of each stream is included in the scene description for use in reproduction of images. Then, in this embodiment, an appropriate error-correction method of each object has been selected according to the priority information. In order to realize select the method, the error-correction coding section 31 analyzes the priority information based on the scene description, and selects an appropriate error-correction method of each object.--

Please replace the paragraph on page 28, line 1, beginning with "It is assumed that the plural-time" with the following:

--It is assumed that the plural-time transmission method is used as a method of the error-correction coding. The number of repetition to determine the error concealment is defined by the following expression. If it is assumed that, for example, $\epsilon 1$ is [[as]] a mean error incidence, $\epsilon 2$ [[as]] is the present error incidence, and a certain constant k, the number of repetition may be selected by the following equation:--